



**Committee on  
Homeland Security Democrats  
Bennie G. Thompson, Ranking Member**

<http://hsc-democrats.house.gov>

**For Immediate Release:**  
December 5, 2005

**Contact:** Jennifer Porter Gore  
Nadra Harrison  
202.226.2616

**RANKING DEMOCRAT RESPONDS TO FINAL REPORT RELEASED  
BY THE 9/11 COMMISSION**

*“Our nation is still unprepared for a terrorist attack”*

Ranking Member Bennie G. Thompson (D-MS) today expressed grave concern that four years after the 9/11 terrorist attacks, the nation is still unprepared for a terrorist attack.

Rep. Thompson’s comments were made in response to the release of the 9/11 Commission Public Discourse Project’s “Final Report on 9/11 Commission Recommendations,” which finds that the Administration and the Congress, with its current Leadership, have failed to fulfill many of the Commission’s recommendations to prevent or prepare for a terrorist attack. The report provides grades and comments on the level of fulfillment of each recommendation.

“The 9/11 Commission gave a lot of F’s to our government’s efforts to secure the homeland. Unfortunately, like bad students, I think this Administration and Congress are going to continue to be truant and delinquent on homeland security for a long time to come. The federal government, under its current leadership, simply isn’t taking our nation’s security seriously enough, leaving us unprepared to face a terrorist attack.

“This year’s hurricane season showed that we cannot even prepare for a disaster we know is coming, much less a sudden attack. From chemical plants to subways, ports, and the border, we have failed to take the steps needed to close security gaps. Even in those areas in which Congress has provided funding, the Administration has not acted. For example, although the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 authorized the hiring of another 2,000 Border Patrol agents, the President only asked for 210 new agents in his budget this year.

“Worst of all, we have not even adequately prepared first responders for another terrorist attack – Congress cut first-responder preparedness programs by \$200 million this year, for example.

“We must act now to fulfill the 9/11 Commission’s recommendations and close our security gaps. Our nation deserves better leadership than this.”

###